

VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'SUNMARIVANI'

Botanical/commercial denomination:

Verbena hybrida/Verbena Plant

5 Varietal denomination: cv. Sunmarivani

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The new variety of Verbena plant according to this invention originated as a mutation from *Verbena hybrida* 'Sunmariba'.

15 The Verbena is a very popular plant and is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a few varieties of the Verbena plant that have abundant branching, many yellowish white flowers in a spike, and a high resistance to heat, rain, and disease. Accordingly, this invention was aimed at obtaining a new Verbena variety having a decumbent growth habit, much 20 branching, many flowers in a spike, high tolerance to heat and rain, and resistance to disease and pests.

Progress

25 The new variety of Verbena plant according to this invention originated as a mutation from *Verbena hybrida* 'Sunmariba' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,801).

30 The new variety *Verbena hybrida* 'Sunmarivani' was discovered as a spontaneous branch mutation of the *Verbena hybrida* 'Sunmariba' in May 1997 in a field of a nursery at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan.

35 The mutant Verbena plant was propagated by cutting and was grown in pot and bedding from May to November 1997 at Hakushu-cho, Kitakoma-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan.

5 The botanical characteristics of the plant were examined, using similar varieties 'Sunmariba' and 'Sunmaririho' (unpatented). As a result, it was concluded that this Verbena is distinguishable from other varieties, whose existence is known to us, is uniform and stable in its characteristics, and this new variety of verbena plant was named 'Sunmarivani'.

10 In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

15 SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any Verbena commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

- 20 1. Decumbent growth habit with abundant branching.
2. Plentiful number of flowers in a spike, having a great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time.
3. Long flowering duration.
25 4. The petal color is yellowish white (R.H.S. 155B).
5. The plant has a high resistance to rain, heat, disease and pests.

30 The new variety 'Sunmarivani' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmariba' in the following points.

- 35 1. The spreading of plants of 'Sunmarivani' is larger than that of 'Sunmariba'.
2. 'Sunmarivani' does not have Anthocyanin pigmentation on stems in contrast to 'Sunmariba' that has.
3. The petal color of 'Sunmarivani' is yellowish

white (R.H.S. 155B). That of 'Sunmariba' is vivid purple (R.H.S. N81A).

4. The number of flowers per spike of 'Sunmarivani' is more than that of 'Sunmariba'.

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The new variety 'Sunmarivani' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmaririho' in the following points.

1. The stem thickness of 'Sunmarivani' is thicker than that of 'Sunmaririho'.

10 2. The leaf margin of 'Sunmarivani' is sharply serrated. That of 'Sunmaririho' is serrated.

3. The flower height of 'Sunmarivani' is shorter than that of 'Sunmaririho'.

15 4. The peduncle length of 'Sunmarivani' is longer than that of 'Sunmaririho'.

This new variety of Verbena Plant 'Sunmarivani' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings from May to November 1998 at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and 20 homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

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The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during July 2002 while growing outdoors at an age of approximately 6 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

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FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Verbena plant 'Sunmarivani' growing in a hanging pot.

35 FIG. 2 illustrates a close view of typical foliage and blossoms of the new variety of Verbena Plant 'Sunmarivani'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new variety of Verbena plant named 'Sunmarivani' are as follows.

5 Plant:

Growth habit. -- Decumbent.

Plant width. -- Approximately 60-80 cm.

Plant height. -- Approximately 10-20 cm.

10 Stem:

Diameter. -- Approximately 3.5-4.0 mm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation. -- Absent.

Pubescence. -- Moderate.

Prickles. -- Absent.

Branching. -- Abundant.

15 Subterranean stem. -- Absent.

Length of internode. -- Approximately 3.5-4.5 cm.

Leaf:

Phyllotaxis. -- Opposite.

Shape of blade. -- Hastate.

20 Apex shape. -- Obtuse.

Base shape. -- Truncate.

Margin. -- Sharply Serrated.

Length. -- Approximately 4.0-5.0 cm.

Width. -- Approximately 3.0-4.0 cm.

25 Color. -- Upper side: R.H.S. 137A (grayish olive green).

-- Lower side: R.H.S. 144A (strong yellow green).

Pubescence. -- Sparse.

30 Petiole. -- Absent.

Flower:

Shape of cluster. -- Obconical.

Cluster length. -- Approximately 3.5-5.0 cm.

Cluster diameter. -- Approximately 5.5-6.5 cm.

35 Facing direction. -- Upward.

Floret diameter. -- Approximately 1.5-2.0 cm.

Floret length. -- Approximately 1.5-2.0 cm.

Color of petal. -- Upper side: R.H.S. 155B (yellowish white).

-- Lower side: R.H.S. 156C (yellowish white).

5 Eye color. -- Absent.

Variegation. -- Absent.

Petal apex. -- Emarginated.

Number of petals. -- Generally 5.

Calyx length. -- Approximately 1.0-1.5 cm.

10 Calyx shape. -- Tubular. Sepals having an acute apex infused at the base.

Reproductive organs. -- 1 pistil and 4 stamens.

Pistil shape. -- Bifid.

Anther color. -- R.H.S. 1B (yellow green).

15 Filament color. -- R.H.S. 1B (yellow green).

Pollen. -- Present in a moderate quantity.

Stigma color. -- R.H.S. 4D (pale yellow green).

Style color. -- R.H.S. 144B (vivid yellow green).

Ovaries. -- Commonly four in number.

20 Peduncle diameter. -- Approximately 1.0-2.0 mm.

Peduncle length. -- Approximately 7.0-9.0 cm.

Peduncle color. -- R.H.S. 137C (Moderate yellow green).

Number of flowers per spike. -- Approximately 17.

25 Flowering period. -- April to November in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts 5 to 7 days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of approximately 20°C.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

30 Tolerance to cold. -- High.

Tolerance to heat. -- High.

Resistance to disease. -- High.

Resistance to pests. -- High.